

How to get
Involved in the
HSCB!

Join a workgroup.

Where do you want
to make a
difference?

- Transportation
- Foster care, Adoption, Kinship Services
- Substance Abuse
- Homelessness
- Healthy Youth
- Suicide Prevention
- Hunger
- Older Adults
- Young Children
- Community Data

Contact

Anne Rennie:
arennie@cmhliv.org

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Livingston HSCB

HUMAN SERVICES COLLABORATIVE BODY

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2015

What's New in Livingston?

Summer Events are what is New!

Each summer our community rolls out the carpet to have fun, supportive and engaging programs for our community to attend and be involved in. This summer is no different. Here are just a few of the wonderful Events.



Marion Township Heritage Days

This annual event is June 13 and 14.

There are several events being sponsored by the Township (free to kids).

- Parking for all.
- Steam engine and antique tractor displays.
- Pony rides.
- Hay wagon rides.
- Kid's pedal pull. Kids ride toy tractors pulling weights.
- Fire station & fire truck tours, Freddie the Fire Truck.
- Animal displays.
- Chick hatching.
- Face painting.
- Farmer John Barnyard show (Sunday).
- No Excuses 50's & 60's Band (Sunday noon – 4pm).
- Howell Nature Center Nature Bus (Saturday).
- Mud Bog Truck display.
- Classic Car Show (Sunday)
- Canoeing & Kayaking in small pond.
- Garden Tractor pulling contest (Sunday)

Backpacks and Connect for Kids Event

Thursday, August 20, 2015
from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Backpacks will be distributed from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.*
LESA, 1425 W. Grand River Ave, Howell, MI

Prepare for the upcoming school year: Backpacks filled with School Supplies, Community Resources from many community partners, Back to School Resources, Refreshments, Car Seat Checks, Helmets** and More...

* Wristbands for backpacks will be distributed prior to 6:00 p.m.

** Helmets will be available for a nominal fee of \$5.00.

Summer Lunch Bunch

Summer Lunch Bunch
Challenger Elementary
Howell
Free Food and Family Fun
June 15-August 14 (No meal July 3)
11:30 am to 1:30 pm
Fun Activities every
Thursday from 12-1

No reservation needed-
just show up.

All families with children
are welcome.

Kids eat free, adults suggested donation of \$3.50
(cash only)

For more Summer
Events, see page 4

Summer Fun!

Weird, But interesting Michigan facts.

1. The Upper peninsula residents call us lower peninsula residents "Trolls" because we live under the bridge.
2. There are no more wolverines living in the Wolverine state.
3. Kellogg cereal company in Battle Creek offered the first mail-in cereal box prize in 1909.
4. Detroit residents were the first in the nation to have phone numbers in 1879, due to the volume of calls being too much for operators.
5. Detroit was the first in the nation to pave a road with concrete, back in 1908.
6. The Detroit metro area sits atop a gigantic salt mine. Estimates say there's enough salt down there to last for 70 million years at the world's current rate of consumption. Pass the potato chips!

Facts—According to www.movoto.com/mi/michigan-facts/

HSCB Workgroups Hard at Work

Energy Assistance has changed significantly over the past two years in the state of Michigan. The Utility Task Force and all its partners have worked hard to alleviate some of the pressures our consumers may be feeling as a result of those changes. The Salvation Army of Livingston County has partnered with Consumers Energy and Detroit Edison to help enroll eligible low income households into subsidy programs that help reduce monthly utility bills.

The CARE Program through Consumers Ener-

gy (Consumers Affordable Resource for Energy) provides consumers a 40% discount on their bill each month, while also offering other great benefits!

The LSP Program through Detroit Edison (Low Income Self Sufficiency Plan) provides an affordable fixed monthly rate based on income and energy usage in the home. The purpose behind both programs is to encourage on time monthly payments from households that would normally struggle to pay their energy bill.

Those households working with The Salvation Army and the Utility Com-

panies receive low cost and no cost energy saving tips, review of budget in the home, protection from shut off and much more! This is a collaborated effort by many Livingston County agencies and the faith based community, to help guide the families we serve towards a more self sufficient life. While we still continue to provide emergency assistance for those at risk of having their heat or electricity shut off, we also want to engage with families in a way that promotes financial security and peace of mind. More information to come this Fall 2015 for the upcoming CARE and LSP season!



A Program to Watch

The Homeless Continuum of Care Committee under the HSCB has developed subcommittees which are working hard to reduce and/or eliminate the challenges resulting in homelessness. One of these challenges is Eviction.

Eviction is costly to both the landlords and tenants. In order to address this challenge, the Housing Stability Task Force has met with Landlords, talked with processing agents, talked with other county eviction diversion programs and talked to Judge Brennen. These conversations have

resulted in a proposed pilot project called the Eviction Diversion Project. This project will be implemented over summer. It will have two components. One is legal advocacy. Legal Services of South Central Michigan has been at eviction court every Monday afternoon since May 4th. They have already seen great outcomes for clients and been able to help several households either get the compliant for against them dismissed, reach settlement agreements about amount

owed and negotiated move out dates, and had trials to enforce tenants rights to habitable living conditions. at the court. The second component will allow 20 families to be followed, once they have been assisted with rental assistance, and see if the support helps to get them back on their feet.

It will be important to see how these efforts impact our community, so that larger funding streams can be explored for future needs.

Livingston County Community Taking Action

Howell and Brighton Farmers Markets Accepting SNAP Bridge Cards This Summer

Farmers markets are great places to purchase fresh Michigan produce and to connect with local farmers and the community. Everyone should have access to fresh, healthy, local food. The fruits and vegetables at farmers markets are fresher and healthier. And dollars spent at the markets support our local economy and area farmers. That is why the Howell and Brighton farmers markets will accept Bridge Cards this summer.

This farmers market initiative is a cooperative effort between the members of the Livingston County Hunger Council and both Howell and Brighton farmers markets. This initiative will allow Bridge Card holders to utilize their benefits at the markets.

Benefits on one's Bridge Card will be exchanged for tokens which are treated as cash in the market. Shoppers can then use their tokens with any participating vendor throughout the market to purchase any eligible food or vegetable seedling product. Vendors cannot give change, but will work

with shoppers to make sure they get their money's worth. Tokens don't expire, so if shoppers don't use them all the same day they are redeemed, they can use them on their next market visit.

The Howell Sunday Farmers Market will begin accepting the Bridge Card on June 7th. The market is located on State Street and Clinton Street, adjacent to the historic Livingston County Courthouse in the heart of downtown Howell. It is open every Sunday beginning May 3 through Oct. 25, from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. For more information contact the Howell Farmers Market at farmersmarket@howell.org or call 517-546-3920.

The Brighton Farmers Market will begin accepting Bridge Cards in late June. The market is located in the First Street parking lot in Downtown Brighton. It is open every Saturday from May 2 through October 24, rain or shine. Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For more information contact the Brighton Chamber of Commerce at 810-227-5086 or look for announcements at brightoncoc.org



Livingston Stories of Hope

Livingston County Prisoner Reentry program is literally giving people Hope and Second Chances. Here are just a few of their success stories!

John is an excellent representation of a story of hope. A participant of prisoner reentry, he was released from prison after a revolving door experience, in and out over the years. This time, the outcome was different when he was released. John came into the community, as a sex offender, whom we know seem to experience the most systemic difficulties, with living restrictions due to existing laws, discrimination from those around them, and difficulty finding employment due to this scarlet letter. Many often face extreme criticism and are often treated as pariahs. John was re-

leased, and quickly became connected in Livingston county, he relied on so many local organizations to help give him a boost, and he is now, renting his own property, has a full-time job in a leadership role (with numerous additional offers because of his excellent work ethic and skills) and is flourishing, having established who he is as a person, and having developed his identity. Much of these successes are due to the guidance and support of this county. We are so proud of him!

Jessie, a participant of prisoner reentry came into the community as a nervous individual, with a hefty list of goals. She knew she needed to succeed, she just didn't know where to begin. After becoming connected to local organizations and resources, Jessie has been able to find a job, get her drivers license, form bonds and connections with individuals in the community, and therefore has developed a major sense of confidence and self assurance. She can support herself, and she can be independent, something she had

only hoped for in the past. She tells her story and her incarceration experience to those she encounters with a sense of hope and empathy. She knows what it's like to struggle, and she knows that second chances are incredibly valuable. We are proud of Jessie and thankful that she had a second chance, and she is thankful for the help of this community.

To learn more about the Livingston County Prisoner Reentry Program, contact 517-546-7088.





Livingston County Human Services Collaborative Body

622 E. Grand River Ave
Howell, Michigan
48843



Phone: 517-586-2039
Fax: 517-552-2526
E-mail: arennie@cmhliv.org

*Ensuring a system of support for
members of our community.*

What is the Purpose of the Livingston County HSCB?

The Livingston HSCB started in 1989 and was officially recognized as the county Multi-Purpose Collaborative Body by the state and county Board of Commissioners in 1995. Now, referred to as a Community Collaborative by the state, the HSCB is comprised of 26 appointed members that work together to coordinate health and human services across systems. The HSCB also:

- Develops strategies and programs to meet current and future needs
- Fiscally manages state-funded collaborative initiatives
- Monitors the effectiveness and efficiency of collaborative projects

The HSCB does this work through established committees and workgroups which have specific goals and objectives to complete. The HSCB and most workgroups meet monthly and consist of representatives from public and nonprofit organizations, business, and interested residents of the county. To learn about the work of the HSCB, contact Anne Rennie at arennie@cmhliv.org.

Upcoming Events in Livingston

*"Individually, we are one drop.
Together, we are an ocean."*

LACASA is holding Nurturing Parenting Classes

June 2nd—July 21st, once a week from 6-8. Cost is \$75 for one parent or \$100 for two parents. To register contact Jan Lobur at 517-548-1350

The ARC of Livingston and the Friends of Area 27 Special Olympics of Liv. Co. have a Golf Event
Event is June 8th at Lakeland Golf and Country Club. \$135 per golfer. To register, contact www.arclivingston.org

The Connection Youth Services' new Teen Group

A confidential group for youth who are interested in learning new ways to cope with emotions. The group is strength-based and asset-focused. Groups will be held on Thursdays from 3-4. Groups begin June 11th and run through August 27th. To register call Jessika at 810-923-3241

Marion Township Heritage Days—June 13th and 14th—See page One

MIOI Youth's Art Display at Cleary

MIOI youth have been attending an Arthur Artists program and have created some compelling pieces. Their art will be displayed to the public on June 20 from 1-4 p.m., at the Arthur Secunda Museum at Cleary University

AAA1-B is holding a conference called "Elder Abuse has no Borders"

June 26th at Madonna University in Livonia. 3 CEU's for Social Workers. Only \$10 for General Admission and \$15 for CEU's. Register at www.elderabusehasnoborders.eventbrite.com

Backpack and Connect for Kids Event—August 20th—See Page One

Congratulations and Thank You to Livingston County Catholic Charities for serving our community for the last 30 years!